

REPORT.

The Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to enquire into the best means of encouraging and developing the Agricultural Industries of Canada, beg leave to report that they have made a careful enquiry into the disadvantages and wants experienced by agriculturists, that it was considered could be in any degree removed or supplied, by more extended and attentive action on the part of our Legislature and Executive. For the purpose of this enquiry, the Committee have taken the evidence of persons who have made special studies of the various branches of industry comprised under the more general term agriculture, of others possessed of wide scientific knowledge having a direct and important bearing upon agriculture, of whom some by travel and observation were able to afford the Committee much valuable information of the effect of operations for the encouragement of agriculture in other countries, and of others who, being practical Canadian farmers, were well prepared to express the general feeling as to the wants and disadvantages experienced by agriculturists in Canada. The evidence given by these gentlemen has greatly aided the Committee in forming conclusions that they believe will be found to be perfectly justified by experience elsewhere, and also abounds in information of a nature that renders it well worthy the careful perusal of agriculturists generally throughout the Dominion.

Before taking their evidence the Committee issued a series of questions, a form of which is herewith presented, to agriculturists in all parts of the country, in order to ascertain the views of that class generally.

OTTAWA, February, 1884.

SIR,—A Special Committee has been appointed by Parliament to consider what steps should be taken to place the Department of Agriculture in a position to better promote and encourage the Agricultural Industries of the country. The Committee being anxious to become possessed of the advice and experience of men engaged in the culture of the soil, as well as of those devoted to the study of sciences having a practical bearing on agriculture, begs to solicit your co-operation, and to request that you will express your views on those of the following questions with which you feel prepared to deal. Enclosed is a printed envelope for reply, which the Committee would be pleased to receive at as early a date as possible.

I am, &c.,

G. A. GIGAULT.

Chairman of Committee.

1. Under what difficulties does the present system of agriculture labor, and in what respect is the Canadian farmer placed at a disadvantage when competing in foreign markets?

2. What deficiencies have come under your notice in the—

- Cultivation of cereals,
- Cultivation of roots and grasses,
- Raising of stock and wool growing,
- Production of butter and cheese,
- Culture of fruit,
- Fertilizers in ordinary use?

3. Would the importation of seed from foreign countries benefit our farmers?

4. Would a general system of inspection and branding be likely to enhance the value of our butter and cheese in the home and foreign markets?

5. Would the importation of fruit tree scions and plants from Russia and other countries under climatic conditions similar to those of Canada, be of service to our fruit growers.

6. Would the appointment of a public analyst, to whom samples of soil and of home manufactured and imported fertilizers might be submitted, prove of advantage to our farmers?